***The Alchemist* Wiki Posts**

**-Each one of my entry’s are based on the 5 parts of my book, " The Alchemist"**

In the first part of "The Alchemist" I was introduced to the main character, a young sheepherder who was drooling over the daughter of one of his customers. He talks to her and likes to tell her stories, but when he is done doing business with her father he is on his way, knowing he will not see her for another year. The young boy hopes to the young girl remembers him still, but there is also the little devil on his shoulder saying she won’t remember him at all. The young boy has no home to go to because he chose being a sheepherder because that’s what he truly wanted to do. Now he sleeps on a large book, he says the larger books are more comfortable to sleep on. The next scene that takes place is when the young boy has a mysterious dream about going on a journey and finding a treasure. The dream reoccurs so he seeks out a fortuneteller. He is worried about being able to pay the old lady because he has little money, however when the lady reads his future she says the session is free. The reason for her not charging the young boy was because she too saw the young boy setting out on a journey where he finds a treasure. She said that when he finds this treasure he is to return to her and give her one tenth of what he finds. After meeting with the fortune teller the boy sits down to read his book, which he barely understands. The boy is concentrating hard on the book until an old man that sits down next to him interrupts him. After exchanging conversation the man finally says that he is the king of Salem, the boy not believing him. However, his oppinion completely changes when the old man reveals what he had written in the sand; it was his fathers name, mothers name, the name of the girl he met, which he himself didn't know, and some things that the boy had never told anyone. Once the young boy realizes he is talking to the king of Salem, the conversation begins to be more interesting. The conversation leads into the boy’s journey, now he knows it is real and the fortuneteller was in fact correct. The king explains what he must do on this journey and talks to him about personal legends and the stones he is going to supply him. The king does not exactly tell him word for word what he has to do, only that the treasure is located in Egypt near the periods and to look out for omens, the actual journey is up to the boy to figure out.

When I first picked out the book I figured it was going to be good because of the intro and from what people were telling me about it. At first I didn’t know where the book was going because it started out with a not so interesting scene, but as I read more and more it really grabbed my attention. The interaction with the old man and the boy has been the most interesting part so far in the first section of the book. I really found it interesting about how the old man described the personal legends and good omens. I especially liked when the old man said that the "greatest lie" is "at a certain point in our lives, we lose control of what's happening to us, and our lives become controlled by fate." I find this to be true because I do believe that so many times people just let their foots off the peddle to success and say things like " well we will see what happens", this I feel is what the great lie is saying. I also liked the boy’s cautiousness towards the "old man's" speal of being the king of Salem. I can relate to the boy because I too am very cautious of who I trust and i'm not very quick to buy into everything that a person tells me. However, I was very confused bout the part of the book when the boy trusted the strange man with his money. I didn't understand how the young boy put his guard up with the king and then took it down for a strange man who he had just met. The young boy shouldn’t have

Put his money in the stranger’s hands, because now he is stuck in Africa with no money and a broken spirit with no one to turn to for help.

As for the essential question, the boy has looked back on his past to shape his future. He uses his past of his parent’s ideas of him being something more significant to shape his future as a sheepherder. The boy has always wanted to be a sheepherder, but his parents saw him as something else. When he informed his parents of what he wanted to do they supported his decision and wished him luck. The boy used this past experience to shape his life, even though every part of the job did not make him very happy. He then looked back to his past for a second time when the king approached him about the treasure. He looked at what he was, just a sheepherder who would never be a stand out. He wanted to impress the girl he had met, but knew he would never get her attention as a sheepherder. Not being as successful shaped his future to what it is now, a determined boy seeking out a treasure and bettering his lifestyle.

PART TWO

In the second part of “ The Alchemist” the boy is sitting back trying to register what had just happened. He is speechless and lost; he has no money and no way of getting home. The boy then reached into his back and out fell the stones the old king gave to him, Urim and Thummim. It was at that time that the boy had his first omen, which the King said, “learn to recognize omens and follow them.” This made the boy feel not as desperate and he felt that he could continue to go on, “even if he never got to the pyramids, he made it farther than any shepherd he knew. He then began to learn many things through his experiences and wondered through city shops until he came to a glass shop. He stopped into the shop and told the owner that he would wash the glasses in the window for something to eat. This temporary glass cleaning evolved into an every day job for the boy. He worked every day in the shop until he raised enough money to return home and buy his sheep back. The boy helped the man come up with ideas to improve his shop and make it more successful, one thing that he did was incorporate selling tea in the glass cups for better advertisement. The boy’s idea was a huge success and the store was making more money than ever before. Eleven months and nine days had passed since he first stepped foot in Africa and the boy was ready to be on his way to buy his sheep back and return home. While packing his bags, out fell the two stones that the king had given him. He then thought of the words of the king and decided to give the journey of finding the treasure another shot. Where I left off, the boy had met an Englishmen who was seeking out an Alchemist on is journey to Egypt. The two of them have now became friends and are on their way to Egypt in a caravan.

The second part of the book really caught my attention because I thought it was so interesting and impressive how the boy just wondered around the city seeking out a job. This showed me that the boy is very strong, and extremely independent. If I were in the boy’s position I don’t know if I would be able to do what he did, I would be frightened and afraid of the unknown surroundings. However, this just shows that the boy has an incredible amount of courage, and a drive to always succeed and find the good out of a bad situation. Another thing I liked about this section was the various amounts of omens the boy experienced. The omens were so clear and obvious which I liked because they were very easy to understand. If it were not for the omens they boy would have never continued his journey to find the treasure. The king really must have been with the boy like he said he would because I feel like it was the king creating the omens for the boy so he would be reminded of the journey and task at hand. I am extremely curious about the Englishmen who the boy met while traveling to Egypt. I wonder who the alchemist is going to be. When I read that part of the book the title came to my mind and it made me wonder if it’s the boy who is the alchemist. So right now my prediction is that the boy is the alchemist.

One of the connections in “The Alchemist” that exists between the ancient world and today are the omens that the king tells the boy to look for. I feel as though omens were very important to the people who lived in the ancient times, like in the book, especially when seeking out journeys. The omens are important to them because they are what remind a person of what they have to do in order to reach their goal. The omens also put people back on task, like when the boy was ready to give up on the treasure the two stones fell out of his pouch causing him to think of the words of the king which then caused him to want to give the journey a second chance. These omens have gained an importance today as well. Although the omens are not noticed specifically as omens, they are still significant. In my opinion our versions of omens today are given to us by god instead of a magical king, I feel like god sends us signs/ omens to keep us driven and wanting to achieve any goals someone may have, as the king did for the boy in “The Alchemist.”